

# FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion December 10, 2012

State: Tennessee

Fiscal Year to which credit applies: **2013**

Overall Report X  
Two-parent Report      (check one)

Apply the overall credit to the two-parent participation rate? X yes  
     no

## PART 1 –Eligibility Changes Made Since FY 2005

(Complete this section for EACH change)

1. Name of eligibility change: **Annual Increase of Consolidated Need Standard/Earned Income Disregard**
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: July 1, 2007 / July 1, 2008
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

**The Families First payment does not meet 100% of need as defined by the consolidated need standard. A standard payment amount is set for each family size based on available state and federal funds. Income available to the assistance group (after all appropriate disregards and deductions have been applied) is subtracted from consolidated Need Standard to determine the deficit, which is the earnings a family may reach before becoming ineligible for the program. Payment is the deficit or the standard payment amount for the assistance group size, whichever is less. The Consolidated Need Standard for FY 05 was \$942 (based on the average family size of 3). Effective July 1, 2007, the CNS increased to \$1,006 (based on the average family size of 3). The CNS remains at the 2007 levels.**

**The Earned Income Disregard was increased to \$250 from \$150 on July 1, 2008, further increasing the amount of earnings a household could have while remaining eligible for the program. The CNS increase and the earnings disregard are combined to determine the cut-off for Families First eligibility.**

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change (attach supporting materials to this form):

**Using a baseline of the CNS effective in 2005 and a \$150 earned income disregard, we looked at the number of families each month in FFY 2012 who were eligible while exceeding the allowable income in FFY 2005. The average number of Families was 3826.**

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: 3826



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1. Name of eligibility change: **Elimination of 18 Month Time Limit**

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: July 1, 2007

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

**Effective July 1, 2007, Tennessee eliminated the 18-month interim time limit. Prior to July 1, 2007, families receiving assistance could only do so in 18-month increments. When a family completed the 18<sup>th</sup> month of assistance, their case was reviewed to see if they were eligible for a good cause extension. If they were not, the family was ineligible for assistance for a 3-month period of time, after which they could reapply for assistance. With elimination of the 18-month interim time limit families are able to receive assistance, uninterrupted, provided they are in compliance with program requirements, until they reach their 60-month lifetime limit.**

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change:  
(attach supporting materials to this form)

**To estimate the number of clients who would have been deemed ineligible for three months due to interim time-limits, we examined the impact of the policy prior to its elimination. We took the number of clients who would have reached 19 months in July, August, and September 2007 who were also present in the caseload the month prior. We assumed that these clients had 3 months of benefit receipt they would not have had prior to July 1. To account for those who were not cut-off at 18 months due to a good cause extension, we looked at the average number of families who received good cause extensions after 18 months of benefit receipt during the six months leading up to the loss of the 1115 waiver. We then divided that number by 3, since clients remain on extension for 3 months. That number was 386.**

**For the current report, we looked at the number of clients reaching 19 months during each month in FFY 2012. We then calculated the percentage work eligible individuals exempted from interim time limits prior to the loss of the 1115 waiver (43.6% of clients reaching 19 months prior to waiver loss), and subtracted that percentage from clients reaching 19 months for each month in FFY 2012. The annual average was 1295.**

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: 1295



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1. Name of eligibility change: Diversion
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: July 1, 2007
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

**Effective July 1, 2007, Tennessee began to offer lump-sum payments to qualifying families who would otherwise be eligible for full TANF program participation. Families receiving lump sum payments must have short-term needs that would be better addressed with a one-time payment than through full program participation. Prior to July 1, 2007, Diversion was not available in Tennessee.**

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change:  
(attach supporting materials to this form)

**We used the number of individuals who received lump-sum payments in lieu of full TANF program participation and calculated the monthly average. We assumed diverted clients would have stayed on the program for six months had they began the program. This time period was calculated by selecting clients from September 2007 who appeared eligible for diversion in having no TANF receipt in the prior 2 years and a minimum of a high school education. Over the following 15 months, these clients had an average program length of six months.**

**For the current report, we looked at all clients receiving a Diversion payment in each month. The average monthly impact was a decreased caseload of 137.**

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: 137.



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Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year:

1. Name of eligibility change:
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: July 1, 2007
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:
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5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year:



## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion December 10, 2012\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Year to which credit applies: \_\_2012\_\_

### PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

(Complete Part 2 using Excel Workbook provided.)



## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion December 12, 2012

State: Tennessee

Fiscal Year to which credit applies: 2013

### PART 3 -- Certification

I certify that we have provided the public an appropriate opportunity to comment on the estimates and methodology used to complete this report and considered those comments in completing it. Further, I certify that this report incorporates all reductions in the caseload resulting from State eligibility changes and changes in Federal requirements since Fiscal Year 2005.

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(signature)

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(name)

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(title)